



## Covenant with Abraham



Martin Landau as Abraham in *In the Beginning*



Abraham was from Ur; God directed him to go to Canaan. Can you find both on the map?

- God promised Abraham: I will make you a great nation
- To fulfill this promise, Abraham and his descendants would need to remain faithful to God

## Isaac and Ishmael



**CARAVAGGIO**  
The Sacrifice of Isaac  
c. 1601=2

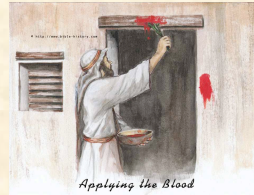
- Abraham had two sons: Isaac and Ishmael.
- Jews believe Abraham favored Isaac
- What did God ask Abraham to do? Sacrifice his son, but God stopped Abraham
- How is the Muslim version of the story different? Muslims believe Abraham favored his other son, Ishmael, who became the leader of the Arab people

## Jacob/Israel



- Jacob = son of Isaac; named was changed to Israel
- 12 sons founded the twelve tribes of Israel.
- *Moved to Egypt in a famine; what happened?*

## Slavery in Egypt / Passover



- Moses - the prophet who led the Hebrews out of Egypt.
- When the pharaoh refused to let them go, God sent 10 plagues. **Examples?**
- The Hebrews' deliverance from slavery by God is celebrated during the holiday of Passover.
- Passover refers to the Angel of Death "passing-over" the homes of the Jews whose thresholds were marked with lamb's blood. This holiday is celebrated with a *Sedar* or Passover meal.
- *Why do Jews eat matzah bread at this holiday meal?*

## 40 Years in the Desert

### Ten Commandments:

1. Do not worship other gods.
2. Do not make idols or images to worship.
3. Do not take the Lord's name in vain.
4. Keep the Sabbath holy.
5. Respect your father and mother.
6. Do not murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not tell lies about others.
10. Do not envy other people's possessions.

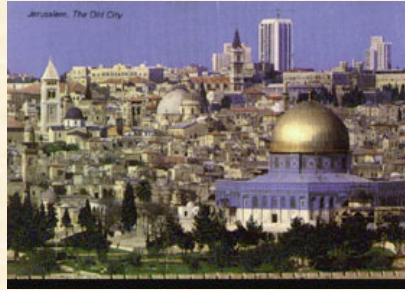


- Found in Book of Exodus in Torah
- Fundamental law of the Jews
- Tablets kept in the Ark of the Covenant
- After Moses' death, Hebrews finally entered the Promised Land

## Israel becomes a Kingdom

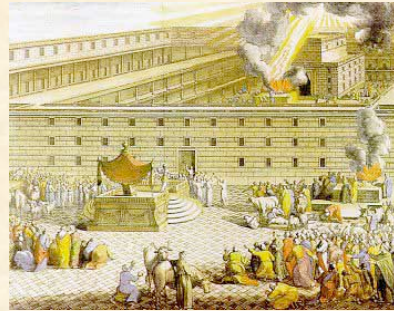


**King David**  
*David by Michelangelo*



- Shepherd boy who killed Goliath
- Founded Jerusalem
- Introduced kingship as a way of mediating god's purpose to his people





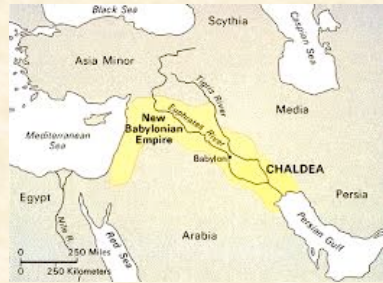
## King Solomon



- Solomon was David's son, known for his wisdom
- Built the Temple to house the Ark of the Covenant
- Served as the place for Jewish worship.
- Taxed the people into a revolt; after Solomon the kingdom split in two (10 northern tribes = Israel; 2 southern tribes = Judah)
- Northern Kingdom of Israel conquered by Assyrians in 722 BCE.
- *What happened to the 10 northern tribes?*



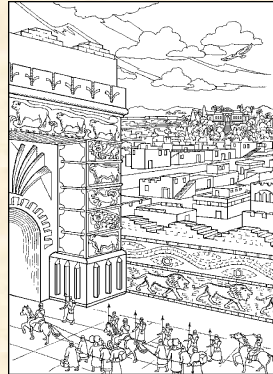
## The “Babylonian Captivity” / The Diaspora



The Chaldeans conquered Judah in 586 BCE and they:



During the exile, the Torah was \_\_\_\_\_.



- Beginning of “Rabbinic Judaism.”
- About 70 years later the “Second Temple” was built under the Persians; it was later expanded by King Herod then destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE.
- *Why is the “Western Wall” so important to Jews?*



## Western Wall in Jerusalem



## Jewish Scriptures



- TORAH = 5 books of Moses; Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
- Scriptures also include PROPHETS and WRITINGS.
- Earliest fragments are Dead Sea Scrolls (c.a. 1,400 B.C.E)
- Torah scroll located in the ark inside of every synagogue; ark symbolizes Solomon's temple in Jerusalem



## Torah



- Torah is the “word of God”
- Reading and studying the Torah is a form of prayer
- When it is copied by scribes it is read out loud so it is a living prayer.
- Torahs are buried when they are “worn out.”
- *What are “Holocaust Torahs?”*

## *Talmud*



- The *Talmud* is a collection dating from 6th Century C.E. The Talmud is a collection of writings that record the Jewish oral tradition. It contains stories, legal rulings, and explanations of the Torah.

## Kosher- Dietary Law



- Kosher law prohibits some foods and also dictates methods for preparation.
- Specific process for slaughtering
- Prohibited foods include
- Prohibited from eating beef and cheese at the same meal

## Sabbath



- As God rested on the seventh day in *Genesis* Jews must rest on the seventh day.
- Attend Temple- longest and most elaborate services
- Sabbath Dinner on Friday night with candles, wine, breaking bread
- You must not do any work - Jews have different ideas of what this means.



## Ceremonies in the synagogue



- The ark faces the Western Wall in Jerusalem; eternal flame above ark
- Jews rise when the ark is opened.
- Torah is usually paraded around the synagogue
- Jewish Men (and male visitors) wear the yarmulke during services.

## Holidays: Rosh Hashana



- Start of the New Year (usually Sept-Oct)
- Hebrew holidays based on a lunar calendar
- Creation of earth in Genesis
- Blowing the *shofar*

## Holidays: Yom Kippur



- 10 days after Rosh Hashanah
- Day of Atonement
- Holiest day of the Year
- Fasting
- Remember the deceased

## Holidays: Chanukah ~ Hanukkah



- Festival of Lights- 8 days, lighting the menorah
  - What is being celebrated?
- 
- Work is permitted during Hanukkah.
  - Not a Jewish Christmas (but...)

## Branches of Judaism



Some American Conservative and Reform Jews are uncomfortable with the role of ultra-Orthodox factions in Israel. Here, ultra-Orthodox youths participate in a public rally in Jerusalem.



- Orthodox = Literalist with unswerving faith to the written word of God. Preserve all traditions, rituals, doctrine.
- **Conservative** = Strong belief in tradition but not all the “old ways.”
- Reform = modernist, emphasis on the spirit of Judaism, less concern about traditional observances

## Zionism



- Jewish nationalism
- Embraces without apology the goal of re-establishing and protecting the state of Israel.
- Received a great deal of momentum after what event?
- Modern Israel was created in 1948 and this led to current Arab-Israeli conflict.

## “Chosen People”



- *“If you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my own possession among all peoples ... and you shall be to me my kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”* EXODUS 19:5-6